

### **Prairie Dog Site Preparation**

#### **Learner Outcomes**

The learner will

- Participate appropriately in fieldwork experience in site preparation.
- Demonstrate stewardship ethic as it applies to public lands.
- Analyze the impact of prairie dogs on the ecosystem through observation, data collection and evaluation of the data.

#### **Background**

This activity is for those students selected to do field work in GMNP. It will require several days of fieldwork to complete this activity. Park Service employees and adult sponsors (teachers, etc.) will supervise students. Overnight stays involving low impact camping may be required. This component is performance based.

#### **Materials**

- Supplement number 3.32, 3.38, 3.39
- Transportation, food and water (camping may be necessary)
- 100-foot steel tape or metric tape
- Metal stakes (eight short pieces of re-bar about 18 inches long)
- Axes, bow-saw, shovels, hammers, mower, power auger and fuel
- Cages (release and capture) and pesticide
- Video and still camera
- Notebook and field journal
- Optional - fence posts (about 50 T-posts) and poultry fencing (about 1600 feet)

#### **Assessments**

- Work sheets
- Research project
- Scientific research paper

Activity #1  
**Preparation of Site**  
5 days

#### **Procedure**

The teacher will

- Help students mow, clear, auger and set release cages at the reintroduction site.
- Help students layout and construct transects for monitoring reintroduction site and a nearby control site.
- Help students build enclosure fence if park service determines it is needed.
- Help students capture and transport prairie dogs to release site at Park Service's discretion.